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THE HEALTH  
of  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
RURAL DISTRICT

in the year  
1966





THE HEALTH  
of  
SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT  
in the year  
1966  
being the  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
Medical Officer of Health

I. G. YULE,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;  
Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Saffron Walden;  
Area Medical Officer, Essex County Council, West Essex Health Area.

together with the  
**REPORT**  
of the  
Chief Public Health Inspector

A. ARMES, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector  
Saffron Walden Rural District Council

**SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December, 1966)

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MR G. T. NUNN

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Chief Public Health Inspector

G. E. HAWTHORN, M.R.S.H.

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MRS L. I. RAWSON

Shorthand Typist (part-time)

## SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
69 High Street,  
Saffron Walden.

To the Chairman and Members of Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1966 concerning the health of the Saffron Walden Rural District.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 18,910 shows an increase of 360 over the previous year. The number of births in the district showed a slight increase and the adjusted birth rate of 18.71 per 1,000 population is above the figure of 17.70 recorded for England and Wales. The total number of deaths remained substantially the same as the previous year. There were 6 infant deaths, an increase of 2 over the 1965 figure, all occurring during the first week of life. This increase was balanced by a decrease in the number of stillbirths from 7 to 3. These changes are reflected in the statistics by an increase in the Infant and Neonatal mortality rates and a decrease in the Stillbirth and Perinatal mortality figures. The latter which takes account of stillbirths and deaths under one week is generally regarded as the most sensitive index of infant and maternal health and care. The general health of the community as judged by the vital statistics remains very satisfactory.

The pattern of notifiable infectious diseases showed a considerable variation from the previous year. The incidence of measles was very much lower, but scarlet fever notifications showed an increase, the cases occurred mainly in the Stansted area and were generally mild. Ashdon was the centre of an outbreak of sonne dysentery towards the end of the year, the majority of the cases occurring in children attending the local primary school. The outbreak although severe and disrupting the normal school programme for some time, remained quite well confined to this particular area. A considerable amount of additional work was undertaken by the Health Visitor and Public Health Inspector for that part of the Rural District in following up cases and contacts on a personal basis and this together with the co-operation received from the public were of the greatest value in keeping the outbreak localised.

During the early part of the year a Cervical Cytology Clinic was opened at the Saffron Walden Health Services Clinic and I am pleased to be able to record my thanks to Dr J. Dean and his staff in the Pathology Department at Newmarket General Hospital for their very great assistance with this project. At the end of 1966, 230 women had attended and in no case was there evidence of early cancer of the cervix, but approximately 10% had other less serious conditions which justified treatment in most cases.

In September the Family Planning Association opened a branch clinic in Saffron Walden. The wealth of voluntary assistance available has helped to ensure the success of this service which is provided every Wednesday evening at the Health Services Clinic, High Street, and by the end of the year it was running smoothly.

The Voluntary Associations in Saffron Walden and District are numerous and well supported, they continue to fill the many gaps left by the statutory services in a very able manner. They were again most active in the care and welfare of the elderly and handicapped and many have cause to be grateful for their efforts. The work of the Old People's Welfare Committee in providing holidays for the elderly and a mobile physiotherapy service for the district in addition to their other activities has proved of tremendous value.

The results of the visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit to the district in November and December provided further support of the decline in the incidence of tuberculosis. Although the final statistics are not yet available a number of other abnormalities were brought to light and as the value of periodic screening procedures becomes more obvious the aim must be to persuade a wider section of the community to avail themselves of these opportunities whether it be for mass x-ray, cervical cytology or another of the growing number of such simple and painless screening tests.

The Inquiry into the possible development of Stansted as London's third airport which took place early in the year focussed attention on the many problems which are associated with an international airport. The implications in the field of public health are considerable, for apart from the obvious problems of noise, sewage disposal and water supplies, the port health aspect with the prospect of several million passengers passing through annually presents a sizeable responsibility. If this development takes place it is clear that it will entail many changes in the district and much greater demands on the Public Health Services.

I would once again like to record my thanks to the many people who have assisted and guided me during the year. In particular to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support, to Dr Pamela Hunter, Mr Armes and the other Officers of the Council for their co-operation and readily available help and advice whenever requested and to Mrs D. Redfern my secretary whose able assistance has contributed greatly to the smooth running of the department.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. G. YULE,

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

### PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

#### 1. General Practitioner Services

These are provided by ten doctors who practice from surgery premises within the Rural District and by over twenty other practitioners from Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire including Bishop's Stortford, Saffron Walden Borough and neighbouring parts of Essex.

#### 2. Hospital Services

These services are provided by hospitals in the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals which serve the Rural District are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Certain special facilities are provided as follows:—

**Cases of Infectious Diseases** requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** are accommodated at Newmarket General Hospital, Cambridge Maternity Hospital and Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

**Geriatric Units** in charge of a Consultant Geriatrician have been established at Chesterton Hospital, Cambridge, Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford and St. James' Hospital, Saffron Walden, and six beds are reserved for geriatric patients at Saffron Walden General Hospital. Particular attention is paid to rehabilitation.

**Chest Clinics** serving the Rural District are available at Saffron Walden General Hospital, Castle Hill, Cambridge and the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

**Treatment of Venereal Diseases** is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

#### 3. Essex County Council Health Services

Apart from Ambulance and Mental Health Services these are administered on an Area basis, the Saffron Walden Rural District comes within the West Essex Health Area.

The Area Office is situated at Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow (Harlow 25331). The following services and clinics are provided:—

**Health Visiting** This service exists particularly to advise mothers concerning the health of their children especially those under school age. The health visitor has in addition to a wide nursing training specialised training and experience which equips her to deal with



many other social problems concerning the family and also the elderly and tuberculous.

The Health Visitors serving the Rural District are at present: Mrs R. Hurst, Miss E. F. Jones, Miss A. Nicolle and Mrs P. Patteson. They are based at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, 69 High Street, Saffron Walden, telephone no. Saffron Walden 2194.

**District Nurse and Midwifery** These services are carried out by the following District Nurse/Midwives resident in the Rural District:

Miss E. K. Clark, 1 Merton Place, Littlebury (Saffron Walden 3155).

Mrs V. Cook, 9 Spencers Road, Gt Chesterford (Gt Chesterford 495).

Mrs A. G. Dutton, 11 Gaces Acre, Newport (Newport 346).

Miss M. K. Everett, Nurses Bungalow, Elsenham (Stansted 2304).

Mrs A. Molineux, Woodcroft, Cambridge Road, Stansted  
(Stansted 2180)

Miss K. Montgomery, 5 Thistley Cres., Rickling (Rickling 236).

Mrs F. Patmore, 1 Rainsford Road, Stansted (Stansted 3256).

Miss K. Vinall, All Saints Cottage, Ashdon (Ashdon 279).

Mrs J. Wheeler, 6 Mailers Lane, Manuden (Stansted 2348).

**Home Help Service and Neighbourly Help Service** Applications for these services should be made to the Area Medical Officer, West Essex Area Health Office, Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow (Harlow 25331). The organiser for the Saffron Walden Area is Mrs D. Taylor.

**Relaxation Classes** for expectant mothers are held by appointment at Saffron Walden and Stansted.

**Women's Welfare Clinic** Advice on contraceptive methods is given to married women where pregnancy would be detrimental to health.

**Care of Children up to School Age** Child Welfare sessions in the Rural District are held normally from 2—4 p.m. as follows:

ASHDON	...	...	Baptist School Room	4th Thursday
CLAVERING	...	...	Village Hall ...	3rd Thursday
DEBDEN	...	...	Memorial Hall	4th Wednesday
..	...	...	R.A.F. Debden	1st Thursday
ELMDON	...	...	Parish Room ...	2nd Thursday
ELSENHAM	...	...	Parish Hall ...	1st Friday
GT CHESTERFORD	...	...	Village Institute	1st Wednesday
GT SAMPFORD	...	...	Village Hall ...	1st Thursday
HADSTOCK	...	...	Village Hall ...	4th Thursday
MANUDEN	...	...	Village Hall ...	1st Monday
NEWPORT	...	...	Village Hall ...	2nd Wednesday

SAFFRON WALDEN		County Health Services		
		Clinic, 69 High Street		Every Friday
STANSTED	...	Central Hall	...	1st & 3rd Wednesdays 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
WIDDINGTON	...	Village Hall	...	3rd Tuesday
WIMBISH	...	Village Hall	...	3rd Wednesday

Facilities are available either by the family doctor or at the Clinics for immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis.

**Cervical Cytology Clinic** By appointment at the Health Services Clinic, 69 High Street, Saffron Walden on 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of each month, preferably women over 35 years of age.

**Health of the School Child** Routine medical inspections are carried out in this area on school entrants, school leavers and children in the 10-12 year age group. Special examinations are carried out as required. School children can be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis, and those in the 12-14 years age group can also be vaccinated against tuberculosis, with their parents' consent.

Dental Service—Treatment for school children is given at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden, and inspections are carried out in schools.

**Chiropody Clinics** for the elderly, physically handicapped and antenatal mothers are held at Stansted, Manuden and Saffron Walden, by appointment.

**An Old People's Advisory Clinic** is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at the Health Services Clinic, 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

**The Mental Health and Ambulance Services** are administered directly by the County Medical Officer, Health Department, 85-89 New London Road, Chelmsford.

**Mental Welfare Officers** for the West Essex Area are based at Harlow and can be contacted during normal office hours at Harlow 26998, at other times the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow 26791 will be able to give the name and telephone number of the mental welfare officer on emergency call.

**A Combined Training Centre** for mentally handicapped children and adults is situated in Hill Street, Saffron Walden.

A day and night **Ambulance Service** is provided and there is an Ambulance Station at Saffron Walden.

Persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency should dial '999' and ask for an ambulance (where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance).

Non emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a mental welfare officer. Calls should be made to Chelmsford 54801.

4. **Laboratory Service**

Bacteriological services for the Rural District are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

5. **Voluntary Organisations**

The following voluntary organisations are of great assistance in supplementing the services provided under the National Health Service:—

**Saffron Walden and District Social Club for the Blind**

President: Mr H. Loftus Cox.

Secretary: Mrs P. S. Ketteridge, 15 Victoria Avenue, Saffron Walden.

**British Red Cross Society**

President: Mrs A. H. Carnwath.

Welfare Officer: Mrs A. Owen Hughes, 1 Blythwood House, Stansted.

**The Child Care Association**

President: Dr L. Fry.

Secretary: Mrs G. Sell, 49 Pleasant Valley, Saffron Walden.

**Family Planning Association Saffron Walden and District Clinic**

Chairman: Mrs D. J. Hawkins.

Secretary: Mrs A. Boyes, 3 Lambert Cross, Saffron Walden.

**The League of Friends of Saffron Walden Hospitals**

Chairman: Mrs K. Wilson.

Secretary: Mr Peter Preece, 19 Brooke Avenue, Saffron Walden.

**The Saffron Walden & District Hospital Trust Fund Association**

President: Mrs C. Custerson.

Secretary: Miss B. Jackson, 16 King Street, Saffron Walden.

**The Saffron Walden & District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.**

Chairman: Mrs D. J. Hawkins.

Secretary: Mr K. S. Davison, 5 Harvey Way, Saffron Walden.

**The Saffron Walden Rural District Old People's Welfare Association**

Chairman: Miss G. Lempriere.

Secretary: Mrs R. M. Rome, Poplar Lodge, Great Chesterford.

**St. Christopher Swimming Club**

Chairman: Mrs M. Miller.

Secretary: Miss J. Clarke, 30 East Street, Saffron Walden.

**St. John Ambulance Brigade**

(Ambulance Division)

President: F. W. Goddard.

Secretary: Mr H. J. Skilling, 5 Neville Road, Saffron Walden.

(Nursing Division)

Superintendent: Mrs F. M. Gray.

Secretary: Mrs J. Barnes, 30a Pleasant Valley, Saffron Walden.

**St. Raphael Club for the Physically Handicapped**

Chairman: Mrs C. Barnes.

Secretary: Miss M. Waters, 27 Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden.

**The Tuberculosis, Chest & Heart After-Care Association**

President: Dr L. Fry.

Secretary: Mrs G. Sell, 49 Pleasant Valley, Saffron Walden.

**Women's Royal Voluntary Service**

Organiser: Mrs A. Wedd, Home Farm, Audley End, Saffron Walden.

Meals-on-Wheels: Mrs Rutherford, 23 Mill Lane, Saffron Walden.



## SECTION B

### STATISTICS

#### 1. GENERAL

Area (acres) ... ..	78,223
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1966) ... ..	18,910
Population (Census 1961) ... ..	18,140
Rateable value (April 1st, 1966) ... ..	£567,662
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (year ended 31.3.66)	£2,237
Number of Inhabited houses ... ..	6,739
Density of Persons per acre ... ..	0.241
Density of Houses per acre ... ..	0.086
Average number of occupants per house ... ..	2.80

#### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births (total) ... ..	316
<b>Males</b>	
<b>Females</b>	
Legitimate           159       142	
Illegitimate        13        2	
(b) Live Birth rate per 1,000 population:—	
Crude rate ... ..	16.71
Adjusted rate (Comparability Factor 1.12) ...	18.71
Rate for England and Wales ... ..	17.7
(c) Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.74
(d) Stillbirths ... ..	3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...	9.40
(e) Infant deaths (Deaths under 1 year) ... ..	6
Infant Mortality rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) ... ..	18.98
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales ...	19.0
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) ... ..	18.98
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) ... ..	28.21
(f) Maternal mortality ... ..	NIL
(g) Total deaths all ages ... ..	188
(h) Death rate per 1,000 population:—	
Crude rate ... ..	9.94
Adjusted rate (Comparability Factor 0.89) ...	8.84
Rate for England and Wales ... ..	11.7

# MORTALITY TABLE

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & 1 year	AGE IN YEARS										Total All Ages 1966 1965
				1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 & over		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	6
	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	4	10	7
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	8	15	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	13
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	11	16	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	M	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	7	10	10	8	30	24
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	12	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
20. Other heart disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	9	12



21. Other circulatory disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	7	5
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	9
22. Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
23. Pneumonia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	6	7
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	6
24. Bronchitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
31. Congenital malformations	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	8	7
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	9	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
34. All other accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
35. Suicide	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES															
	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	5	4	23	95	91
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	3	15	93	94

**COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS**

	1966	1965	1964	1956	1926
LIVE BIRTHS					
No.	316	306	310	287	153
Crude Rate	16.71	16.49	16.81	15.80	15.7
Adj. Rate	18.71	18.46	18.83	17.69	—
INFANT DEATHS					
No.	6	4	5	13	6
Rate	18.98	13.07	16.13	45.3	39.2
MATERNAL DEATHS					
No.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL DEATHS					
No.	188	185	211	200	127
Crude Rate	9.94	9.97	11.44	10.80	13.0
Adj. Rate	8.84	8.87	10.3	9.61	—
POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-YEAR					
	18,910	18,550	18,440	18,540	10,087

MORTALITY TABLE—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

There were three more deaths in the Rural District in 1966 compared with the previous year, but in view of the slight increase in population the death rate remained substantially the same at 8.84 per 1,000 population when adjusted to take account of the age structure. This compares favourably with the figure of 11.7 per 1,000 recorded for England and Wales. The main causes of death remain the same as in previous years with a decrease in the number from diseases of the Heart and Circulation including Vascular Lesions of the Central Nervous System and an increase in deaths from Cancer and Diseases of the Respiratory System.

The principal causes of death in the District were:

	Deaths Percentage of Total Deaths		
	1966	Deaths 1966	1965
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation ...	64	34.1	69
Cancer (all sites) ... ..	40	21.2	33
Vascular Lesions of the Central Nervous System ... ..	24	12.8	32
Disease of the Respiratory System ...	23	12.2	18
Total:	151	80.3%	152

These four groups again accounted for four out of every five deaths which occurred in the District. More than half of all deaths were in people over the age of 75 years and it is a sad fact that there is no permanent armour against old age. Preventable deaths occurring in people before they reach this age represent the main hope if a decrease in mortality statistics is to be achieved. These deaths are however mainly associated with accidents, heart disease and cancer, and the means of prevention often requires a considerable change in our way of life which modern society does not appear to find generally acceptable at the present time.

## SECTION C

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

#### (1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year.

Disease	All ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—9	10—14	15—24	25—60	Over 60
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Infective Hepatitis ...	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1
Measles ...	63	2	7	6	7	10	25	2	—	4	—
Salmonella Bradenburg	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Salmonella Newport ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella Typhimurium ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	26	—	—	1	2	3	11	7	1	1	—
Sonne Dysentery ...	68	—	2	2	2	3	38	11	2	7	1
Tuberculosis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	15	—	—	1	—	2	10	2	—	—	—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Acute Lobar Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	29	4	5	1	7	2	1	3	—	—	5	6
Salmonella B Brandenburg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Salmonella Newport ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Salmonella Typhimurium ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	4	6	5	5	—	3	1	1	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	59
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	—	3	5	3	—	3	—	—	—

Mention has already been made in my introductory remarks of the change in pattern of infectious diseases during 1966. The outbreak of sonne dysentery at Ashdon was perhaps the most notable feature. In outbreaks of this nature the original source of infection is always difficult to ascertain, but it appears most likely that it reflected a spread from adjacent areas where sonne dysentery was prevalent prior to its appearance in Ashdon.

Three cases of salmonella infection, a type of food poisoning organism were notified during the year. The first due to salmonella typhimurium came to light after a child had been admitted to hospital with abdominal pains, but no obvious source was detected. A case of infection due to salmonella brandenburg occurred in a person living in the district but travelling daily up to London to work. The cause in this instance was a meal taken whilst at work. The third case was one due to salmonella newport and occurred in a child living on a farm where poultry were reared and where salmonella infection had been notified by the Divisional Veterinary Officer in turkey poults. It appeared that these birds were the most likely source of infection.

The absence of cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis and smallpox continued during 1966 and is naturally a pleasing feature of this report. It should not however give anyone a false sense of security and the feeling that these diseases no longer present a danger. They are always potentially dangerous and the only satisfactory way to combat them is by means of appropriate immunization and vaccination starting in infancy.

### **Tuberculosis**

There were three new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year two of which were pulmonary and one non-pulmonary, the latter died during the year from an associated non-tuberculous condition. Three outward transfers of people on the register together with routine discharges ensured that the total number of cases still under supervision continued to fall.

Final details of the findings following the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit are not yet available but no new active cases of tuberculosis were discovered and the Medical Director of the Unit comments "we can say that out of a fair sample of groups offered x-rays who are not at risk, there seems to be no reservoir of tuberculosis building up". The figures relating to cases which required follow-up or further investigation after x-ray should be available in the near future.

### **(2) National Assistance Act 1948 (Section 47)**

This section gives power for the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically handicapped, or living in unhealthy conditions are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons proper care and attention. This power is fortunately rarely required and is only used in very extreme circumstances; whenever possible attempts are made to provide services and assistance so that the person



can remain in his own home, or to persuade them to go voluntarily to a hospital or welfare home. It proved possible in the several cases which gave rise to concern during the year to find a satisfactory solution without taking action under Section 47.

## **SECTION D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **1. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux) for the following report which relates to the position at 31st December, 1966.

#### **Littlebury Sewerage Scheme**

Construction is in progress and is well advanced.

#### **Great Chesterford Sewerage Scheme**

A tender has been accepted and approved by the Ministry. Construction is due to commence in January, 1967.

#### **Newport Sewage Disposal Works**

The scheme is out to tender and construction should commence during 1967.

#### **Hempstead and Great Sampford Sewerage Scheme**

This has been approved by the Ministry and is now in the course of detailed design.

#### **Radwinter Sewerage Scheme**

This has been approved by the Ministry, detailed design has been completed and will be put out to tender at the same time as the Hempstead and Great Sampford scheme since flows from Radwinter will be treated at the Great Sampford sewage disposal works.

#### **Elmdon—Chrishall Sewerage Schemes**

The Elmdon part of the scheme has been submitted to the Ministry for approval and Chrishall should be submitted early next year.

#### **Central Sludge Dewatering Plant**

Ministry approval has been given to this scheme and a tender for the mechanical plant accepted. Tenders for the structure will be invited shortly and construction will commence during the summer of 1967.

#### **Farnham Sewerage Scheme**

The construction of a pumping station and rising main at Farnham is now well advanced. The existing sewage disposal works will be dismantled and all flows pumped to Manuden Sewage Disposal Works.



### **Stoney Common Sewerage Scheme**

This will involve the construction of sewers, pumping station and rising main enabling properties to connect to a sewer where none had previously been available.

The design was delayed due to staffing problems but it is hoped that this will be completed in time for tenders to be invited in the summer of 1967.

### **Debden Sewerage Scheme**

Construction is in progress and completion is expected towards the end of 1967.

### **Henham, Elsenham—Ugley Sewerage Scheme**

This scheme has been submitted to the Ministry but the implications of possible future development in the area are holding up a Ministry decision.

### **Langley—Upper Green**

Stage 1. A pumping station and rising main together with gravity sewers to serve ten dwellings at the southern end of the village are in the course of construction.

Stage 2. This involves the drainage of further properties in the village and design should be completed next year.

### **General**

The Rural District comes within the areas of the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board, the Great Ouse River Authority and the Essex River Authority. The Catchment Board and River Authorities continue to exercise increased vigilance in the sampling of effluents discharged from sewerage disposal works to ensure that the Rural District Council complies with the high standard set by them.

## **HOUSING**

The steady improvement in the standard of housing in the District continues as a result of the provision of new housing, the rehousing of families from sub-standard dwellings and the action subsequently taken to deal with such vacated properties.

As main drainage becomes available more rural households will be able to enjoy essential amenities and one of the major disadvantages of village life will disappear.

Furthermore, the "problem of the elderly" is being helped by the continued provision of well designed bungalow accommodation and the care taken in the selection of tenants.

### TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES (in parts per million)

TEST FOR	SOURCE						
	Hempstead Works	Wenden Works	Henham Works	Newport Works	Linton Works (supplying Hadstock Parish)	Stansted Works	Elsenham Factory (Private Supply)
Appearance ... ..	Clear and Bright	Bright with a few particles	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright	Bright with a few Particles	Clear and Bright	Bright with a few Particles
Colour (Hazen) ... ..	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units) ... ..	Nil	less than 3	Nil	less than 3	less than 3	Nil	less than 3
Odour ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH ... ..	7.2	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.3
Free CO <sub>2</sub> ... ..	36	18	28	36	24	17	32
Elect. Conductivity ... ..	570	550	570	560	520	550	570
Total Solids ... ..	390	380	405	385	360	395	390
Cl. as Chloride ... ..	20	17	21	21	16	21	22
Alkalinity (Ca. CO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	275	270	270	270	235	255	290
Hardness (Total) ... ..	315	310	320	325	280	310	290
Hardness (Carbonate) ... ..	275	270	270	270	235	255	290
Hardness (Non-carbonate) ... ..	40	40	50	55	45	55	0
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	2.9	5.8	7.2	7.4	9.0	7.1	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.18
Ammonoid Nitrogen ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Oxygen absorbed ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.00	0.20
Residual Chlorine ... ..	0.03	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.03	Absent
Metals ... ..	Copper 0.32 Other absent	Absent	Iron 0.03 Other absent	Absent	Absent	Iron 0.04 Other absent	Iron 0.50 Other absent

**Bacteriological Examinations:** All supplies were sampled regularly for bacteriological examination, and where reports proved unsatisfactory, immediate action was taken.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1966  
PREFACE**

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the twenty-first occasion on which I have been privileged to present a report on the activities of my department. It is hoped that the pages which follow will readily illustrate the multifarious nature of our duties and the part they play in the maintenance and improvement of conditions related to housing and public health.

Whilst the demand for housing accommodation, based upon applications received, maintains a steady level, unfortunately applications concerned with eviction orders frequently occur and tend to upset the Tenancy Committee's efforts to deal with local applicants who have been living under sub-standard housing conditions for some time. New legislation is undoubtedly needed to expedite the improvement and modernisation of dwellings and this is currently exercising the minds of our legislators. However the number of applications for Improvement Grants tend to show an increase and every encouragement is given to persuade property owners to install modern conveniences with the assistance of grant-aid.

The weekly collection of refuse from all households is a much appreciated service and the Council ranks as pioneers in the scheme for special collection of large unwanted articles which might otherwise find their way into hedgerows etc.

The comprehensive programme for providing main drainage indicates the Council's anxiety to bring essential amenities to all villages although, unfortunately, these costly schemes are apt to be delayed on economic grounds.

The many aspects of housing, for which the department is responsible, together with continuous day to day enquiries keep the staff under constant pressure and at times I am concerned with the minimal attention which often has to be given to some statutory functions.

However, I am ably assisted by a loyal and efficient staff, and co-operative colleagues in other Departments, in my service to a Council which continues to give its full support and confidence.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**A. ARMES**  
Chief Public Health Inspector

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1966

During the year 3,952 visits were carried out and these are classified below (Figures for 1965 are shown, in brackets, for comparison).

### Housing

Inspections in connection with Slum Clearance, Repairs, Overcrowding, Improvement Grants, etc.	578	(627)
Dwelling houses inspected in detail in connection with Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants, Rent Acts, etc. ....	134	(125)
Investigations and re-inspections regarding Council house applications .....	534	(561)
Inspections of Council houses regarding transfers, cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc. ....	327	(288)

### Public Health:

Inspections and revisits regarding Public Health Nuisances .....	112	(99)
Inspections regarding proposed new drainage .....	29	(89)
Inspections and revisits regarding defective drainage .....	320	(318)
Inspections regarding proposed sewerage schemes ...	189	(140)
Inspections and revisits in connection with Moveable Dwellings .....	175	(212)
Visits regarding Infectious Diseases .....	253	(207)
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection .....	466	(253)
Inspections regarding Water Supplies (other than visits for routine sampling) .....	28	(34)
Number of Water Samples collection from main supplies, etc. ....	206	(298)

### Food Premises and Food Inspections:

Inspections of Food Shops, Restaurants, Canteens, Licensed Premises, School Kitchens, etc. ....	139	(111)
Visits to Ice Cream Premises .....	158	(147)
Inspections of Dairy Premises .....	5	(7)

### General:

Inspections of Factories, Offices, Shops, Outworkers Premises, etc. ....	72	(74)
Visits in connection with Rodent Control (not including Operator's Visits) .....	49	(18)
Miscellaneous Visits (Swimming pools, Animal Boarding Establishments, etc., etc.) .....	178	(211)
Total number of visits .....	3,952	(3,819)

The various sections of the work of the department are commented on in the pages which follow.



## HOUSING

### (a) Housing demand and building programme:

In June, 1966, the Council considered the Ninth Report of the Joint Housing Sub-Committee. This Report contained the following information:—

#### Existing Council dwellings:—

Four-bedroom type houses .....	10
Three-bedroom type houses .....	706
Two-bedroom type houses .....	110
One-bedroom type bungalows and flats .....	41
Two-bedroom type bungalows and flats .....	228
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,095</u></b>

**Total number of Applications for Housing Accommodation ..... 468**

#### Number of such Applicants considered as "Priority"

(This is determined after investigation of housing circumstances. Future programmes are based on this figure).

Overcrowded or "bedroom deficiency" .....	9
Applicants (with children) sharing homes .....	34
Applicants (without children) sharing homes .....	18
Applicants occupying sub-standard houses .....	36
Applicants awaiting marriage .....	15
Elderly applicants unsatisfactorily housed .....	48
Miscellaneous (Eviction Orders, urgent medical reasons, etc.)	16
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>176</u></b>

#### Construction Programme in hand or approved:

		Phase 9 Recommendations	Total
Houses .....	29	2	31
Bungalows .....	181	6	187
Flatlets for elderly .....	26	—	26
	<u>236</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>244</u>

Earlier in the year the Ministry of Housing & Local Government was supplied with an estimate as to the approximate number of dwellings for which loan sanction would be required, these figures being as follows:—

1966	1967	1968
65 dwellings	83 dwellings	83 dwellings

This programme was later discussed with Ministry officials who indicated that it was unlikely that loan sanction would be given for more than 40 traditional type dwellings annually.

During 1966, the number of dwellings completed or under construction was as follows:—

Number of Council dwellings <b>completed</b> during 1966 .....	19
Number of Council dwellings <b>under construction</b> at 31.12.66	79
Number of private dwellings <b>constructed</b> during 1966 .....	183
Number of private dwellings <b>under construction</b> at 31.12.66	273

## (b) Selection of Tenants:

The Tenancy Committee selected tenants for 15 new dwellings and 25 dwellings falling vacant; at each meeting up-to-date information regarding applicants' housing circumstances was presented to the Committee together with reports on under-occupation of Council houses and applications for transfer or exchange.

**Tenants selected** were chosen on the following grounds:—

Sharing homes .....	8
Bad housing conditions .....	10
Elderly people unsatisfactorily housed .....	8
Overcrowded or "bedroom deficiency" .....	2
Eviction Orders .....	7
Caravan occupiers .....	1
Transfers and exchanges .....	12

**Details of Transfers:—**

From two-bedroom houses to three-bedroom houses .....	1
From three-bedroom houses to two-bedroom houses .....	7
Transfers to similar type of dwelling .....	4

Encouragement is given to tenants of under-occupied houses to transfer to bungalows and similar accommodation by the payment of removal expenses and assistance with the initial cultivation of new gardens.

157 **new applications** for housing accommodation were received during the year. These were categorised, after investigation, as follows:—

Overcrowded or "bedroom deficiency" .....	4
Sharing homes .....	21
Bad housing (disrepair, etc.) .....	5
Requiring better sanitary amenities .....	37
Under formal "notice to quit" .....	8
Medical reasons .....	6
Awaiting marriage .....	20
Occupying "tied" houses .....	31
Occupying temporary accommodation .....	3
To be nearer place of employment .....	10
Elderly people unsatisfactorily housed .....	10
Miscellaneous .....	2

42 existing tenants made application for transfer to other accommodation more suitable for their needs.

139 **names were withdrawn** from the list of applicants for the following reasons:—

Purchased own houses .....	16
Found other accommodation .....	10
Housed by other local authorities .....	3
Removed from district .....	32
Deceased .....	8
No reply to "follow up" circular .....	20
Application withdrawn .....	14
Granted tenancies .....	36



### (c) Council House Management:

82 Council tenants were authorised to take lodgers, permission only being granted where investigation showed that overcrowding or other unsatisfactory housing conditions would not be caused. An additional weekly charge of 5/- is payable but certain tenants are exempt (i.e. pensioners) in accordance with regulations; the latter were revised by the Council at the end of the year.

7 tenants were warned regarding non-compliance with Tenancy Agreements (cleanliness, decoration, etc.), but in each case such informal action brought about an improvement.

Modernisation of pre-war Council houses continued steadily; at the end of the year 30 such houses had been completed and tenders were accepted during the year in respect of 10 others.

### (d) Action taken under the Housing Acts:

Action taken by the Housing, Sub-Standard Properties, Committee to bring about repair, closure or demolition of unfit dwellings was as follows (figures for 1965 in brackets):—

Number of Informal Repair Notices served .....	20	(20)
Number of Informal Notices complied with .....	12	(18)
Number of houses fully surveyed for housing defects	134	(125)
Number of Statutory Repair Notices served (Section 9) .....	5	(9)
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Statutory Notices .....	3	(2)
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made .....	—	(—)
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	—	(—)
Number of Demolition Orders replaced by Closing Orders .....	1	(—)
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners following informal action or acceptance of Undertakings .....	2	(7)
Number of houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed during the year .....	—	(—)
Number of houses demolished in consequence of Clearance Orders .....	—	(—)
Houses in existing Clearance Areas revoked under Section 24, Housing Act, 1961 .....	1	(5)
Number of Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16, Housing Act, 1957) .....	15	(22)
Number of dwellings rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings .....	11	(14)

(Note: The above figures do not include properties improved in connection with Improvement Grants—see Paragraph (f).

**(e) Housing Acts—"Slum Clearance Programme":**

Progress made in connection with action regarding unfit dwellings since 1945 is shown below (figures in brackets show the position at the end of 1965):—

(i)	Houses subject to Demolition Orders and Closing Orders .....	11	(11)
(ii)	Houses demolished after issue of Demolition Orders and Closing Orders .....	26	(26)
(iii)	Houses subject to Undertakings accepted from owners (Section 16) .....	111	(108)
(iv)	Houses rendered fit after acceptance of Undertakings .....	94	(83)
(v)	Houses voluntarily demolished by owners following action under the Housing Acts	39	(37)
(vi)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas demolished .....	6	(6)
(vii)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas regarded as demolished and reconstructed or Orders revoked .....	31	(30)
(viii)	Demolition and Closing Orders revoked after dwellings rendered fit .....	11	(11)
(ix)	Houses in existing Clearance Areas .....	9	(10)
	Total number of properties dealt with up to 31st December, 1966 .....	338	(322)

The number of unfit properties included in the returns submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1955 and 1965 totalled ..... 425

**(f) Improvement Grants:**

Since the introduction of Grant Legislation the Council have encouraged the improvement of dwellings by means of grant-aid and in practically every case the maximum grant has been approved subject to the regulations laid down by the Minister. To assist owners a detailed survey of the property concerned is carried out at an early stage so that landlords are made aware of the works of improvement and repair required.

Discretionary grants are based on the "approved expense" calculated by the Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux) and the Council gives sympathetic consideration to applications for loans to cover costs not met by grant-aid.

Owners are advised, in the initial stages, as to whether the Discretionary Grant (Maximum £400) or Standard Grant (Maximum £350) would be the most beneficial; to date no applications have been received from tenants for compulsory action against landlords in accordance with the 1964 Act.

**During the year ending 31st December 1966, the following grants were dealt with:—** (1965 figures in brackets)

**Discretionary Grants:—**

Number of Grants approved by the Council	32	(23)
Total “Approved Expenses” incurred by owners in approved schemes .....	£31,113	(£16,547)
Total sum of Grants approved .....	£10,982	(£7,965)
Number of schemes completed .....	17	(34)
Total sum of grants paid .....	£5,380	(£11,371)
Average grant per house .....	£316	

**Standard Grants:—**

Number of Grants approved .....	20	(20)
Number of schemes completed .....	15	(18)
Total sum of Grants paid .....	£2,670	(£2,818)
Average grant per house .....	£178	

The **total progress** made in both Grant schemes from their commencement up to 31st December 1966, was as follows:—

**Discretionary Grants:—**

* Number of dwellings concerned in Grants approved .....	524
Total “Approved Expenses” incurred by owners in approved schemes .....	£364,846
Total sum of Grants approved .....	£156,133
Number of schemes completed .....	448
Total sum of Grants paid .....	£135,978

\*240 properties owner/occupied.

284 properties occupied by tenants (including 18 flatlets for elderly persons)

**Standard Grants:—**

* Number of Grants approved .....	181
Number of schemes completed .....	143
Total sum of Grants paid .....	£19,261

Amenities provided in the completed schemes:—

	Baths .....	119
	Wash-hand basins .....	126
* 135 owner/occupied.	Hot water supplies .....	136
46 occupied by tenants.	Water closets .....	128
	Ventilated food stores .....	90
	Piped water supplies .....	3

**(g) Rent Act, 1957:—**

Action taken since this Act came into operation is indicated below.  
No applications were received during the year:—

Number of applications for certificates .....	14
Number of decisions not to issue certificates .....	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates:—	

(a) in respect of some but not all defects .....	10
(b) in respect of all defects .....	2
Number of undertakings given by landlords .....	5
Number of undertakings refused by the Council .....	—
Number of certificates issued .....	8
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates ...	2
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates .....	1
Decisions by Council to cancel in spite of objections .....	—
Certificates cancelled by Council .....	1

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

When applications for Planning Permission in respect of caravans are made they are also investigated by this department so that information is available when successful applicants approach the Council for licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

At the end of the year 18 licences relating to individual caravans were in force under the latter Act, and 6 sites licensed for more than one caravan; 2 of these were in respect of holiday camping sites.

A number of visits were paid to itinerant van dwellers usually following complaints from nearby householders. It was necessary to seek the co-operation of the police, and the Highway Authority in several instances. The Minister's Circular, issued in June, 1966, gave the results of the "gypsy census" carried out in 1965, and pressed County Councils to take the initiative in connection with the establishment of permanent settlements.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The Lee Valley Water Company is responsible for the public water supply in the District. Samples are submitted, by the department, for full chemical examination annually, and for bacteriological examination at regular intervals; this procedure also applies to a private supply serving a group of dwellings—all supplies are chlorinated.

The results of chemical examinations are given elsewhere in this report; the following table is a summary of bacteriological results:—

Supply	No. of Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number Complying with Standard	Number found not to comply with Standard
Stansted Area (Stansted Works)	33	32	1
Southern Area (Henham Works)	30	30	—
Central Area (Newport Works)	28	28	—
Western Area (Wenden Works)	37	37	—
Eastern Area (Hempstead Works)	28	27	1
Hadstock (South Cambs. R.D.C.)	13	13	—
Elsenham (Private supply)	37	29	8
Totals	206	196	10



Resampling of supplies shewing bacterial counts (which in each case were small) gave satisfactory results.

Informal notices were issued in respect of 2 premises without a proper water supply and in each case were complied with.

Samples collected from private wells, serving isolated premises, proved satisfactory.

### **Swimming Pools:—**

There are no public swimming baths in the District, but regular sampling was carried out from 2 school swimming pools and a private pool used by school children. Whenever results shewed a diminution of standard, advice was given with satisfactory results.

## **SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE**

The Committee responsible for drainage projects (advised by the Engineer and Surveyor (Mr J. S. Y. Molineux)) held a number of meetings and, during the year under review, Ministry approval was given to the Central Sludge Disposal Scheme at Stansted at a cost of £39,000.

Work was commenced on the provision of main sewerage for Littlebury (£47,958) and later a tender for sewerage Great Chesterford and providing sewage disposal works was approved (£158,380).

Application was made to the Ministry for approval in respect of work at Langley to cater for six council houses and a number of private dwellings.

The tender (£44,570) for sewerage and sewage disposal works in the parish of Debden was approved and this work was commenced.

A scheme to sewer the parishes of Radwinter, Hempstead and Great Sampford with a central disposal works for all three parishes (total estimated cost £136,200) was presented by the Consulting Engineers. In November a Ministry inspector conducted an enquiry and a report was submitted on the existing sanitary circumstances of the three villages.

The Council adopted the Consulting Engineers' proposals for sewerage Henham, Elsenham and Ugley at an estimated cost of £240,000 but it seems likely that this work may be delayed pending a decision regarding Stansted Airport.

Other developments under this heading were approval of the tender (£10,955) in respect of works at Farnham and the adoption of schemes prepared for the parishes of Chrishall and Elmdon.

Progress with the various projects outlined above and those previously approved is eagerly awaited, particularly as there is no public cesspool emptying service and housing developments in many parishes will have to be delayed until main drainage becomes available.

47 cases of defective drainage were dealt with during the year, but in each case advice and informal action brought about remedies by owners. One complaint regarding the pollution of a watercourse was brought to the notice of the Agricultural Land Tribunal and the department assisted the Inspector in his enquiries. Later a report was received and the matter satisfactorily dealt with.

In parishes newly provided with main drainage, a number of property owners were persuaded to replace existing unsatisfactory closet accommodation by water carriage systems or advised as to the provision of all modern sanitary amenities with Grant-aid.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Regular weekly collection of refuse from all premises continued satisfactorily during the year by private contractor working to the Council's specification.

Refuse is disposed of at four tips, hired mechanical equipment being used to level and cover the material. Despite precautionary measures, a major fire occurred at the main refuse tip and was only overcome by the importation of large quantities of covering material and the use of heavy soil moving appliances.

Consideration was given to the question of a central disposal site and the possibility of pulverisation or similar treatment of refuse: investigations regarding this are continuing.

Calculations revealed that the cost of collecting and disposing of refuse amounts to 1/3d. per dwelling weekly.

It was necessary to make representations under the Public Health Act regarding a plan submitted under Building Regulations where difficulties would have arisen in respect of refuse removal and an amendment to the proposals was secured.

Action had to be taken to prevent unauthorised tipping of rubbish into four privately owned pits and in one case enforcement action under Section 36 of the Town & Country Planning Act had to be resorted to before the nuisance was abated.

The Council continued to provide the much appreciated "special collection" service for the collection and disposal of large articles of refuse from households thus preventing the illicit dumping of such materials. 102 lorry loads were collected during the year at a cost of £163; this would seem a small price to pay for a tidy countryside, and it is anticipated that the Bill now before Parliament will make such a service compulsory.

This District does not suffer unduly from the modern menace of the abandoned vehicle and only four of these had to be dealt with.

50 additional litter baskets were purchased and made available to Parish Councils; emptying of these is dealt with during normal refuse collection.

Waste paper is baled and sold under contract to Thames Board Mills the amount dispatched being as follows:—

	1966			1965		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Weight of paper sold .....	70	15	0	87	12	1
Income received .....	£632	17	9	£777	13	2



The Council undertakes weekly emptying of pail closets by private contractors in the parishes of Great Chesterford, Littlebury and part of Newport. Remaining parishes are covered by a private scheme whereby householders pay the contractors direct for this service; 155 householders made use of this arrangement during the year.

## RODENT CONTROL

A part-time rodent operator is employed to carry out free treatment at private dwellings and regularly treat refuse tips, sewage works, etc. Sewers are also regularly test-baited to detect rat infestation which is immediately dealt with.

Where business premises are treated, the full cost is charged; agricultural premises are not serviced by the Council and it was not necessary to call any occupiers attention to farm infestations during the year.

A summary of rodent control work during the year is shewn in the accompanying table.

The destruction of wasps' nests was carried out, on request by householders, whenever this was possible—a charge of 10/- being made in each case.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (Refuse Tips, etc.)	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections) ... ..	53	377	—	12	442
Number of properties found to be infested with <b>RATS</b> :—					
(a) Major Infestations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor Infestations ... ..	21	300	—	9	330
Number of properties found to be infested with <b>MICE</b> :—					
(a) Major Infestations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Minor Infestations ... ..	—	7	—	1	8
Total number of properties treated by the Council's Operator (including re-treatments) ... ..	48	339	—	11	398

## FACTORIES ACTS

Details of factories registered and inspections made, etc., are given in the following tables.

3 outworkers were included in lists received under Section 110—the outworkers' premises were visited during the year.

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	6	3	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	43	9	2	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	5	—	—	—
Total	54	12	2	—

### 2. CASES in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):					
(a) insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### (a) Meat Inspection:

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District; meat supplies are obtained from the wholesale suppliers outside the area.

### (b) Milk and Ice-Cream:

Milk production is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and licensing and supervision of pasteurisation plants and of dealers in Designated Milk is dealt with by the Essex County Council.

Visits were paid to each of the Milk Distributors and Dairies registered by the District Council and conditions were found to be satisfactory. One complaint regarding taste of milk was investigated but no action was found to be necessary. After investigation of a complaint regarding insects in bottled milk, the matter was referred to the local authority in whose area the production premises were situated.

80 vendors of ice-cream are registered by the District Council under the Essex County Council Act, all ice-cream retailed being pre-wrapped by the manufacturers. One complaint regarding the condition of ice-cream on delivery was referred to the producing firm who traced this to a faulty refrigeration plant on the delivery vehicle.

101 samples of ice-cream were collected at random from retailers' premises and submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. Results were classified as follows:—

M.H. Provisional Grade I .....	77
M.H. Provisional Grade II .....	22
M.H. Provisional Grade III .....	2
M.H. Provisional Grade IV .....	—

### (c) Other Foods:

Subsequent to notification by wholesalers and retailers, the following foodstuffs were surrendered on being found unfit for human consumption; steps were taken to ensure that such "condemned" food was properly destroyed:—

Boned Cooked Ham .....	50 lbs.
Bacon .....	513 lbs.
Ice-Cream & Lollies .....	130
Butchers' meat (imported) .....	60 lbs.
Frozen Food .....	72 Packets

## TINNED FOOD

	Tins	Total weight
Corned Beef .....	13	78 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat .....	25	35 lbs.
Jellied Veal .....	4	17 lbs.
Peeled Tomatoes .....	89	91 lbs.
Mincemeat .....	2	14 lbs.
Chopped Pork .....	3	12 lbs.
Pears .....	9	15½ lbs.
Peaches .....	22	40 lbs.

Fruit Cocktail .....	1	1 lb.
Apricots .....	4	7 lbs.
Ham .....	7	9 lbs.
Manderins .....	1	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Pineapple .....	19	31 lbs.
	<hr/> 199	<hr/> 351 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Visits were paid to the only set of water cress beds in the District: samples taken of cress and of water flowing through the beds were adjudged to be satisfactory standard.

Four complaints regarding "foreign bodies" in food were followed up, i.e.—Butter (discoloured paper), dates (dried fruit moth), and bread (two instances of charred material). Warning action only was considered necessary.

**(d) Food Premises, Restaurants, Canteens, etc:**

There are 193 food premises in the District classified as follows:—

Butchers' Shops .....	8
General Stores (grocery and provisions) .....	56
Bakehouses .....	4
Bakers' and Confectioners' Shops .....	2
Sweet Shops .....	7
Greengrocers .....	1
Fishmongers .....	1
Poultry Dressing Depots .....	1
Bacon Curing Establishments .....	1
Wholesale Provision Merchants .....	1
Cafés, Restaurants and premises serving meals .....	17
Canteens .....	4
Licensed Premises .....	68
School Kitchens and Central Cooking Depots .....	5
Schools serving meals .....	16
Preserve manufacture .....	1

9 of the above premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved food, etc.

Visits were paid to these premises as often as possible resulting in notices being served in respect of the following matters:—

Inadequate sanitary accommodation at licensed premises ...	2
Inadequate lighting in food preparation rooms .....	2
Food displayed on forecourt and kept less than 18 inches from ground .....	1
Inadequate ventilation to food preparation room .....	1
Absence of notices regarding "hand washing" .....	4

Major improvements and reconstruction of premises were carried out at a large restaurant following advice and representations to the owners.



A survey of all premises concerned with the service of school meals was carried out at the request of the education authority. Details of works considered necessary were forwarded to that body and were in hand at the close of the year.

I am still of the opinion that those responsible for the management of food premises are not sufficiently aware of the possible consequences of failure of employees to take the necessary care when handling "open" food. A typical instance of this occurred when, only a few minutes after being assured by the manager of a butcher's shop that separate knives were used for raw and cooked meats, the District Inspector spotted an employee slicing cold roast pork on the same block and with the same knife used immediately beforehand for raw meat!

Early in the year a well attended one-day Conference on "Food Hygiene" was held in London by the Central Council for Health Education. Dominant among the many points raised by delegates was the necessity to call attention to the danger of reheating meat dishes and the advantages that would be gained if Registration of Catering Premises was made compulsory.

A Circular was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food regarding poultry dressing establishments and the need to set up a regular inspection service to ensure that diseased or unfit birds do not reach the public. It is hoped to put this matter in hand at an early date.

In October another of the excellent "Codes of Practice" was issued by the Ministry in respect of the Bakery Trade; copies were immediately forwarded to all such premises in the District.

About the same time we received the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicle) Regulations 1966, which became operative on the 1st January, 1967.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Investigations were carried out and the requisite action taken in connection with 27 cases of scarlet fever, 4 of infective hepatitis and 3 cases of food poisoning. The latter were separate isolated cases and there seemed little doubt that infection occurred outside the area.

Disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., was carried out following the removal of 3 persons, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, to hospital.

Visits were also paid to four farms where outbreaks of salmonellae occurred in calves, pigs and turkeys. Advice was given to animal handlers and specimens collected for examination at the laboratory.

Many visits were paid to households in connection with an outbreak of dysentery in one village following a similar outbreak in the adjoining County.

### **THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963**

The inspection of premises registered under this Act continued throughout the year and the following are extracts from the Report forwarded to the Minister of Labour under Section 60 of the Act:—



**TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS**

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices ... ..	—	14	5
Retail shops ... ..	4	30	17
Wholesale shops, warehouses ... ..	1	4	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ... ..	1	2	1
Fuel Storage depots ... ..	—	1	—
Totals	6	51	26

**TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES—59**

In addition 12 visits were paid to premises which were found to be outside the scope of the Act.

**TABLE C — ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE:—**

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices ... ..	108
Retail shops ... ..	122
Wholesale departments, warehouses ... ..	82
Catering establishments open to the public	5
Canteens ... ..	8
Fuel storage depots ... ..	4
Total	329
Total Males	195
Total Females	134

**TABLE D—EXEMPTIONS:—**

PARTS I—IV (space (Sec. 5(2), temperature (Sec. 6), sanitary conveniences (Sec. 9), washing facilities (Sec. 10)):—NIL

**TABLE E—PROSECUTIONS:—NIL**

Number of inspectors appointed under section 52(1) or (5) of the Act ..... 3

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act ..... NIL

## Analysis of Contraventions found:—

Section	4 — Want of cleanliness .....	3
"	6 — Unsatisfactory temperature or absence of proper thermometers .....	9
"	8 — Inadequate lighting .....	2
"	9 — Unsuitable or inadequate sanitary conveniences	6
"	10 — Unsuitable or inadequate washing facilities .....	9
"	12 — Absence of suitable clothing accommodation ...	1
"	16 — Unsatisfactory floors, passages or stairs .....	2
"	17 — Inadequate fencing of machinery .....	1
"	24 — Absence of prescribed first-aid materials .....	5
	Total contraventions .....	38

20 Preliminary Notices were served in respect of these contraventions and 8 such Notices, were compiled with by the end of the year.

One notifiable accident was reported during the year. The requisite investigation revealed that it was caused by careless and unauthorised handling of a bacon slicing machine during cleaning.

## MISCELLANEOUS

5 Licences were issued under the Animal (Boarding Establishments) Act, 1963. Primary inspection of such premises are carried out by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the Council.

One licence was issued under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, for the boiling of waste food for animal feeding.

One application was received under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 for prior approval to the installation of a new boiler plant and approval was granted.

Reports in connection with Searches under the Land Charges Act respecting 749 properties were forwarded to the Clerk of the Council.

Informal action resulted in abatement of nuisances arising from refuse dumping, manure heaps, smoke emission, a gas holder, burning poultry manure, poultry battery houses, liquid manure spraying, road sweeping accumulations, and noise nuisances (tuning of motor cycles, pneumatic drills, cockerels).

Three reports concerning elderly people living under unsatisfactory conditions were sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

Contact pesticides were successfully used in dealing with infestations of flies, ants, beetles, and bed bugs.

Advisory visits were paid to gravel pits following the Aberfan disaster.

A building considered to be in a dangerous condition was reported to the Engineer & Surveyor who immediately took the necessary action.

Several talks were given on housing, public health, etc., to professional and other organisations; practical visits were arranged for a group of students from Saffron Walden College.

During the year I attended an intensive Civil Defence course at the Civil Defence Staff College and was also privileged to pay official visits to Belgium and Cologne under the auspices of the Royal Society of Health and the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

A. ARMES

September, 1967

Chief Public Health Inspector







7/2/18

